



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

May 29, 2015

## **FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change**

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota  
Attention: F-6001  
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado  
Attention: J-4120  
Facilities Manager, Hardin, Montana  
Attention: MT-300: Tom Tauscher  
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming  
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6040  
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming  
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /s/ Tim H. Felchle

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-39**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3632.32; Storage: 933,512 acre-feet; River Release: 6,000 cfs; Inflow: 11,330 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Inflows continue to increase into Yellowtail Dam due to increased releases out of Boysen Reservoir. Also, downstream gauging stations indicate river flows are higher than anticipated. As a result, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs ( $\approx$  3,480 MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).*

**Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.**

### **YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:**

**At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:**

*Decrease release through the river outlet works to  $\approx$  0 cfs.*

*Initiate and increase release through the spillway gates to  $\approx$  2,500 cfs.*

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 400 cfs (gage height = 73.17 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 7,000 cfs (increase gage height to 62.60 and apply a new shift of 0.0 ft).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 7,400 cfs*